

QI 2.1: Safeguarding and Child Protection

Themes

Arrangements for safeguarding, including child protection
Arrangements to ensure wellbeing
National guidance and legislation

Descriptor

This indicator focuses on the responsibilities required by practitioners and partners to ensure that all children are safe, well cared for and able to flourish. This indicator looks to how the setting takes account of statutory requirements in relation to child protection to ensure the needs of all children are met. Safeguarding all children requires strong partnerships to be established between the setting and its local community. This includes well-planned opportunities to help children become resilient and develop a sound understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

Level 5 illustration:

Arrangements for safeguarding, including child protection

- There are clear, appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure the care and welfare of babies, toddlers and young children including child protection, safeguarding and risk assessments. The needs and concerns of our children and their families are dealt with sensitively and effectively. Arrangements for raising concerns are well publicised and are known by practitioners, parents/carers, partners and children, where appropriate. Senior leaders have been trained in safeguarding matters to a high level and demonstrate sound knowledge and understanding, acting as models of best practice for others. Children, parents/carers, practitioners and partners take an active role in promoting care and welfare. An appropriate, designated person is in place to take lead responsibility for any care and welfare or child protection concerns that may arise and all stakeholders are aware of their role. All practitioners receive regular professional learning and are confident in responding to any child protection or safeguarding issue, including e-safeguarding, child sexual exploitation and extremism. All incidents relating to equalities are recorded and acted upon to provide support and prevent further occurrences. Any accidents/incidents and administration of medication is recorded in line with clear policies and procedures.

Arrangements to ensure wellbeing

- The ethos and vision of the setting strongly promotes equality, challenging all forms of discrimination. Babies, toddlers and young children are able to build up positive relationships with consistent adults whom they trust. Children, at a developmentally appropriate stage, are supported to be involved in decision making. They have access to a named person who will act on their behalf when appropriate. There are well-embedded policies and systems in place to promote care and welfare matters across the life of the setting. We use learning and teaching approaches which promote resilience and healthy lifestyles and are highly sensitive and responsive to the wellbeing of each baby, toddler and young child.

National guidance and legislation

- Babies, toddlers and young children are safe and are observed to feel safe in the setting. There is a strong, robust and proactive response from adults working with children that reduces the risk of harm or actual harm to them. All adults working with them know and understand the indicators that may suggest a baby, toddler or young child is suffering or at risk of suffering harm and they take the appropriate and necessary action in accordance with local procedures and statutory guidance. Practitioners keep their knowledge up-to-date and are aware of emerging issues within society. Leaders and governing bodies where appropriate, ensure that policies, procedures and training are effective and comply with legislation at all times. Our record keeping for all safeguarding matters, including planning is maintained to the highest standards and stored safely and securely ensuring all sensitive information is only accessible to relevant members of staff.

Features of highly effective practice:	Challenge questions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures reflect most recent legislation and are reviewed on a regular basis. • Safeguarding is an important thread running through a setting's self-evaluation. There are clear policies and procedures in place to promote equalities. • There are robust and reliable approaches in place to follow up non-attendance through a range of strategies. • There are risk assessments in place within settings taking account of individual circumstances. Risk assessments are carried out and recorded appropriately including for all outings. • All staff, including volunteers and partners, have a full understanding of child protection procedures, and the steps to be taken in any given situation, including an appropriate referral, child protection case conferences, and child protection registrations. • Practitioners effectively engage children and take account of their views and experiences; particularly where decisions are to be made that may impact on life choices. • Children's learning in health and wellbeing is enhanced through effective partnership working with parents/carers and partners. • All child protection records are stored safely and securely ensuring all sensitive information is only available to those relevant members of staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent are approaches to child protection and safeguarding an integral part of our self-evaluation processes? How good is the leadership of the setting in taking forward this area of practice and how do we know? • Is there an appropriate, designated person in place for child protection and do all families and stakeholders know who this is? • How effective are the recording and planning processes in delivering positive outcomes for children where there is child protection or safeguarding concerns? How well are babies, toddlers, young children, and their families supported following a concern? • How do we ensure that all staff, including support and visiting staff are kept up-to-date with effective safeguarding practice? How do we ensure volunteers and students are familiar with our safeguarding policy and practice? • How effectively are children who are on or were previously on the child protection register and/or Looked After being supported? • Are there guidelines and procedures in place for determining if a child requires an individual plan? How do we sensitively and appropriately share this information?